

*no. 9th*  
**PRELACY**

**DEFENDED:**

OR, THE

**Scurrilous Reflections**

OF

**High-Flyers**

**Expos'd and Ridicul'd.**

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**L O N D O N:**

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# Bpelacy Defended:

OR, THE

Scurrilous Reflections of *High-Flyers*

Expos'd and Ridicul'd.

A. **D**EAR Doctor, I am heartily glad to see you! Pray, what News stirring?

D. I suppose none that is good; I understand the ----- are still against the *Occasional Bill*.

A. That's very strange indeed worthy Doctor.

D. A Gang of Demifanatical -----

A. Hold, Doctor, not too fast.

D. Pray, good Sir, hold your uncivil Interruptions; Shall I be afraid to speak the Truth?

A. But you know, my beloved Doctor, the Truth is not to be spoken at all times.

D. Deposition and Deprivation is not sufficient--

A. Stop, my Evangelical Doctor, pray remember the Pillory.

D. Prithee don't talk to me of those State and Pistrinal Machines, they are beneath a Man of Courage.

A. Right, Learned Doctor, but you know a Man of Courage is not beneath them.

D. Don't think to frighten me with your Chimeras; I tell you they are unpresidented Practises.

A. In the best sense, I hope, my pious Doctor.

D. No, in the worst, Puppy.

A. I beg your Pardon, I did not know that before.

D. But if we trace their Origin we can't expect otherwise.

A. Ænigmatical Doctor, explain your self.

D. Poor Fool, the Expression is self-evident and indisputable.

A. To the Learned you mean, Doctor.

D. To be voted Unchristian by the Honourable House of Commons is a fine Character for a -----

A. And that the innocent Mr. Fuller shou'd be voted an incorrigible Rogue is somewhat wonderful.

D. I don't see how this contradiction can be reconcil'd, an unchristian -----

A. 'Tis pretty difficult, Doctor.

D. I have heard of a Maxim, that two Contraries can't agree in the same Subject.

A. That's understood of real not denominative, Doctor.

D. It must be one way or other, for I am sure,  
*Quod in aliquo tertio singulari & incommunicabile conveniunt.*

A. Oraculoussly Philosophick, Doctor.

D. Sir



D. Sir J. P. hath display'd him in his proper Colours.

A. A modern Heroe, Doctor.

D. He hath expos'd the Wolf in the Sheep's Clothing.

A. Take care, Doctor, *Scandalum Magnatum*.

D. This ever famous Patriot hath signaliz'd himself by his elegant Harangues against -----

A. Pray, honest Doctor, be cautious, the H. of C. is a very dangerous Subject.

D. What do you think of an Heterodox, as well as an Unchristian.

A. Impossible, and incompatible, Doctor.

D. 'Tis matter of Fact, under the Rose, between you and me, honest Jack.

A. Pray pardon my Scepticism, Doctor.

D. Didst thou never see a Modern Exposition of our Salvatory Articles?

A. What then?

D. There's sweet matter of Faith for you, titely warranted by the *Holy Writ*.

A. No Man is Infallible Doctor.

D. I hope it doth not become a ——— to commence Antiscripturist.

A. By no means my Ingenious Doctor.

D. I am mightily concern'd to see Church-Loyalty so sensibly decay.

A. Your Notion of Church-Loyalty, Doctor.

D. I

D. I mean vigorous Assertors of the Ecclesiastick Policy.

A. Stricklers for its Ceremonial Constitution.

D. Yes, Ceremoniously Ritual.

A. That would sooner revive the Act *De Hær. Com.* than suffer an Abolition of the least Ceremony.

D. Observant of its most minute Ordinances.

A. Superstitiously Ceremonious.

D. Blasphemous Wretch, to brand the Elect with Idolatry !

A. I supplicate your Pardon, conscientious Doctor.

D. They are Men of sound Principles, devoutly Pious, charitably Officiatory, and of an implicit Faith.

A. Honourable Characteristicks, correspondent to their Divine Profession.

D. These are Accomplishments essentially constitutive of Holiness and Reformation.

A. I heard say, that Wh. Dr. and Sw. were Qualifications necessary to compleat their Character.

D. They may be requisite, perhaps, but not necessary.

A. They are *Propria quarto modo* I believe.

D. They may *coincidere*, but I am sure they don't *constituere*.

A. Precisely descriptive Doctor.

D. What's think of our Fanatical W——

A. I believe they are honest Fellows in the main.

D. Ironically speaking, Jack.

A. They

*A.* They entertain a profound Respect and Veneration for our devout and honourable ——— and are strict Followers of their Virtues.

*D.* Birds of a Feather generally flock together.

*A.* They are wise, grave, merciful, charitable, and against severe Treatments.

*D.* As long as 'tis for their Interest so to be.

*A.* They are Loyal, and faithful Defenders of their Prince and Country.

*D.* No Regicides, no One and Forty Men, and no Levellers.

*A.* Bountifully Contributory to maintain War abroad, and promote Peace at home.

*D.* When the management of the Fund is in their own hands.

*A.* They are opposers of Party Divisions, Civil Dissentions and Animosities.

*D.* Because they wont conform to the Church.

*A.* Morality shines in its brightest Lustre amongst them.

*D.* Men of unspotted Lives and tender Consciences.

*A.* Their Actions demonstrate an undeniable Affection to Her Majesty.

*D.* Their Practise illustrate the love they have for Her establish'd Church.

*A.* Honesty is become their *Criterion*.

*D.* Occasional Conformity their Justification.

*A.* For

A. You are mistaken Doctor, I don't mean Presb.

D. For God's sake, who do you mean?

A. The true, godly, and exemplary Members of our Church.

D. The low, moderate, and groveling Ch——, don't you.

A. I don't understand your Party distinctions, I mean Persons of Moderation.

D. I apprehend thee, I could recite a great many fine Stories, which would make thee change thy Opinion.

A. I am very impatient to hear them, Doctor.

D. I can't conveniently now, but I will satisfy you another time. Here's a Health, honest Jack, to all true *Englishmen*.

A. With all my Heart, Doctor.

D. Prithce, what's think of an *extempore* Cant, inspir'd Ejaculations, and enthusiastick Emotions.

A. Delusion, Baits to deceive the Ignorant.

D. Egregiously Ridiculous, doubtless, to all who prefer strength of Reason and solidity of Argument to unpremeditated and incomprehensible Nonsense.

A. Incomparable fine Doctor.

D. Our *Pembrokian* —— is of another Opinion, he would sooner make an *extempore* Discourse of two hours long, than compose an elaborate Sermon not half so prolix.

A. I



*A.* I know nothing of the Matter, I never heard him hold forth.

*D.* I hope 'tis not to oblige our belov'd *P.* that we follow their way of Sermonating.

*A.* Defect of Visibilty, or Retention, and a sagacious Memory may be the primary Causes.

*D.* Indeed Persons divinely Inspired, subject to spiritual Motions, are good extemporary Sermocinators, but I believe our Right R——d doth not pretend to such uncommon Infusions.

*A.* Dr. *Burgess* will tell you 'tis the sense of the Heart, not the Tongue is to be valu'd.

*D.* Strange! you wou'd not have our S——rt to be like that unintelligible, enthusiastick, and similitudinary Inspirator.

*A.* The Doctor is a cunning, subtle Fellow, able to cajole his credulous Parishioners.

*D.* 'Twou'd be a very odd sort of Apology, when you have spoke Blasphemy, vociferated rapturistick Absurdities, and irreconcilable Contradictions, to say the meaning of your Heart was quite contrary to what you said.

*A.* 'Tis true, practise defines the Man, and if he always preacheth Nonsense, I can't believe he is a Man of sense.

*D.* Here's a Health to your honest Per——

*A.* I shan't pledge you.

*D.* They are faithful Fellows in the main.

*B.*

*A.*

*A.* A company of disloyal, disaffected, nonjuring Traytors, that would betray their Country into Tyranny, and their Religion into Papistical Superstition.

*D.* Their Principles are diametrically contrary, they are Sticklers for Passive Obedience, opposers of Abdication ; they are inseparable Adherents to their Prince, and wou'd deposite their Lives and Fortunes to protect him.

*A.* 'Tis well you said their own P—— otherwise I shou'd have scarce believ'd you ; 'tis more eligible to continue unactive and unconcern'd, than to abett and assist an illegitimate and pretended Title.

*D.* Conscience, you know, is an irresistible Dictator, too prevalent to be confronted.

*A.* Pox on their Consciences, Fellows that wou'd cut your Throat for Two-pence half-peny ; who make their Religion a covert for Conspiracy, and pretensions to Loyalty a defence for Rebellion.

*D.* Undeserv'd Calumny !

*A.* The opportune discovery of the *Scotch Plot* has been a great Mortification to them, 'twill dissolve their Associations and Cabals, and deter them from appearing so publick for the future.

*D.* Prithee don't misrepresent their innocent and undesigning Meetings, intended to allay their Grievs and Sorrows for unfortunate Disappointments.

*A.* Very innocent Consultations : They don't inform our Enemies of our Affairs and Counsels, don't con-

concert Measures and hatch Designs prejudicial to the Government : They are abominators of One and Forty Principles, promoters of Peace and Tranquility, and dutiful Sons to our Laws and Crown.

D. Literally true, notwithstanding your Inuendo's.

A. I shall ever, with the most profound Veneration, Reverence their L---ships, for their constant and indefatigable opposition to the promotion of Per---ism.

D. They say the Duke of *Berwick* is made Generalissimo of the *French* Forces that serve the next Campaign in *Spain* : His most Christian Majesty has a great kindness for him.

A. The Prints tell you so.

D. I believe this Summer will decide the Controversie for the *Spanish* Monarchy, I hope success will attend His C. Majesty.

A. King *Charles* I suppose you mean, I know no other lawful Sovereign, for I can never think him right Heir to a Crown who comes to the Royal Diadem by the violation of the most solemn Oaths, fictitious Wills, and by the breach of Stipulations and Contracts.

D. Indeed you are in the right of it, honest *Jack*.

A. My humble Service to you, Doctor, an inviolable Union to both Houses.

D. With all my Heart, *Jack*, I admire they don't silence that scandalous Scribler the *Observer*.

A. I must acknowledge he is a scurrilous Fellow, tho' really he ought to be commended for one thing, that is, for treating so reverently our honourable P--.

D. He's a prevaricating Hypocrite, speaks one thing, and means another; and because we wou'd willingly be thought a Man of Reformation, we must likewise employ our Pen against the Stage, not upon the Account of Morality, but to fill our Paper in order to get our Ten Shillings; an indigent, necessitous, and mercenary Wretch, excessively Envious and Ill-natur'd, immoderately Stupid, and incorrigibly Wicked.

A. He'll have a satyrical fling at you for this in his next *Observer*.

D. His Reflections are become so insipid, his Remarks so obviously dull and ridiculous, that 'tis beneath a Man of sense to regard and observe them.

A. How doth our University stand affected at this critical Juncture.

D. I was at *Oxford* about three Weeks since, where the *Occasional Bill*, the universal Theme now a days, was introduc'd, Arguments *Pro* and *Con* were offer'd, but, amongst the rest, a very Learned and Judicious Gentleman, to demonstrate the compliant and flexible Temper of their ——— propos'd this disjunctive Proposition, ' Either the Bill is for the advantage of our Church or some other; from which



which he deduced such necessary and undeniable Inferences, as very conspicuously evidenc'd their Proceedings and Concertments to be point blank contrary to the Interest and Advancement of our establish'd Religion.

A. Pray, honoured Doctor, let's hear some of those axiomatical Consequences.

D. Says he, the former part of my Proposition I suppose some People wont grant, since by such a Concession, they wou'd condemn their own Actions. Neither do I see, how they can affirm the latter, without breach of Modesty, and violation of Truth; for in what manner can any thing be instrumental to the promotion of a Church, which unqualifies its Members to enjoy Offices of Power and Authority, incapacitates and disables them to defend their Religion against Endeavours and Designs to subvert and abolish it; a Position implicitly contradictory, and apparently absurd. Neither do I think it to be so great a difficulty as some People may imagine, to prove the former part of the disjunction. If it be prejudicial to our own Church, it must be either so absolutely or circumstantially; that it is in the first sense, no one I ever as yet met with has had the confidence to pronounce: If it be detrimental in reference to circumstance, I agree with the generally applauded excuse, that it is ill-tim'd. Nevertheless, I can't conceive why such shou'd be the only Men,

at least the principal to oppose and confront it, to whom the interest and preservation of our Ch—— is committed. I am well satisfied, that it is never inopportune to do good, to concur in promoting and establishing the most sound and holy Religion throughout the Universe, altho' some Temporal Inconveniencies might result from such Religious Endeavours, certainly is highly acceptable and well-pleasing to the Almighty : Besides, it seems somewhat strange, that their—— shou'd be endow'd with so great a niceness of penetration, such a peculiar happiness of Prediction as to be able to discern Abstrusities, inconceivable by all others, to Divine Events never dreamt of by any besides themselves. That the —— for fear of Notional Mischiefs shou'd neglect and oppugn Spiritual Duties, are modern Proceedings, calculated for Designs not altogether so impenetrable as the dangers in futurity so much talk'd of.

A. This is an Ingenious Man for Disjunctions, cou'd any one in the Company answer his Arguments.

D. There were some endeavour'd to confute them by their little Evasions, which he so easily detected as you wou'd a *Drury Lane* Quean from an honest Woman.

A. This was a moderate Fellow of a T—— ; for generally in Disputes of this nature Fist and Foot,  
in-

instead of Argument, are made use of to determine the Controversy.

*D.* You are a little too scurrilous *Jack*, you'll never leave till you are voted for your defamatory and licentious Tongue, an incorrigible Rogue.

*A.* I hope they won't treat a Person with such Severity when he has got Matter of Fact on his side. Now, because you are my particular Friend, Doctor, I'll recite to you a Story which I heard concerning two Divines, Collegiates in *Oxford*: But that you may apprehend the Matter aright, you must know one was distinguish'd by the ever celebrated Characteristick of Moderation, the other stigmatiz'd with the scandalous Repute of a furious and immoderate —. There arose a Dispute between them concerning the extent of the Metropolitick Presidency and Jurisdiction, in relation to the Lower House of Convocation, *viz.* Whether the Proceedings of our Metropolitan were justifiable and warranted by Presidents. The former defended the Conduct of the Archbishop, and resolutely affirmed, that it was a Prerogative so inseparably incident to the Metropolitick Power to prorogue the Lower House of Convocation, as a Prerogative to prorogue the House of Commons was to the Crown. He vindicated the Actions of our supream Prelate, from the undeserv'd Aspersions of Malignancy and Ill nature, and conspicuously made appear, that through the whole

whole Series of his Life, the promotion of the Church, encouragement of Vertue and Reformation, an impartial distribution of Justice, and an exemplary Affection towards the Members of his own Profession were his distinguishing and peculiar Marks. The other like a true bigotted Tantivy, being highly offended to hear a Man of *Moderation* so justly applauded, and not being able by dint of Argument to invalidate his Assertions, and for fear of an Ecclesiastick Censure not daring to contradict his Character, yet being unalterably resolv'd to revenge our self on him for his Impudence, rather than baulk our Resolution we commenc'd Porter, the surest and most satisfactory Refuge when Truth and Equity is against us.

*D.* You are sure the Report is true, and that being insufficient at Argumentation we made use of a more ungentle and mechanical Remedy to satiate our furious and transported Passion.

*A.* The Gentleman himself doth not deny it, but rather boasts of it as a magnanimous and heroic Exploit.

*D.* Did the injur'd Party never prosecute him, in order to redress his Grievance for so unjustifiable an Affront.

*A.* He complain'd to the Vice Ch — of his inhuman Treatment, where, instead of receiving satisfaction, he purchas'd almost an irretrievable ruin;  
for



for the V—Ch— being a little *Anti-Ep—* inclin'd, told him, that it did not belong to his Jurisdiction to rectifie this intolerable abuse, but that it appertain'd to the H—d of the C— to take cognizance of all Irregularities committed by the Members of his own Society. The poor Gentleman being here refused satisfaction, with Supplication and Prayer he address'd himself to the Warden, conjuring him to Punish this notorious Offender, who had not only violated his Oath of Ordination, but likewise broken the Statutes which he had sworn to observe; one wou'd have thought that Justice and Equity had oblig'd the Warden to have exerted his Authority against this nefarious Villain, and summon'd the Criminal to answer for his notorious Misdemeanour, and to have inflicted a Punishment on him correspondent and proportionable to his Offence: But alas, the event prov'd quite contrary; for instead of receiving a redress of our Grievances, our Misfortune was encreased, by an addition of a greater Infliction than we had already suffer'd; Deprivation of Fellowship was pronounc'd against us, and perhaps Excommengement wou'd have follow'd, had it been in his Power to declare it.

D. Thy Narration is so obscure and mystical, *Jack*, that 'tis impossible for a Person of an ordinary Capacity to apprehend it, pray explain yourself more intelligibly, and don't talk of Depriva-

tion and Excommengement, without telling us a why and a wherefore.

A. Keep your Temper, Doctor, and I'll immediately satisfy you: You must know that every College is very tender of its Rights, Authority, and Jurisdiction: Now, because the Complainant inform'd the V——Ch—— of his Wrong and Injury, and did not first of all come to the Wa—— to do him Justice, 'twas constru'd as a slight of their Power, and an infringement of their Rights and Privileges; an Offence of so high a nature, as nothing but the Sentence of Deprivation cou'd be *Tantamount* and *Commensurate* to it. This was the reason our mercenary Jurant gave for his unpresided and unjust Procedure. Others thought there must be some more prevalent inducement than the abovemention'd, for so uncommon a Severity.: And others more sagacious and penetrating than the rest of their Brethren, excogitated this plausible and reasonable Assignment, That 'twas because he who is a Friend to the present Metrop—— cou'd be no well-wisher to the propagation of Leviticism; a Reason more diverting than the former, and perhaps, after a serious Consideration of Circumstances, will be look'd upon as the most probable.

D. I find by your Relation, *Jack*, our Academics are disgusted at their L—— Proceedings, as well as a great many others of the same Complexion.

Pri-

Prithce, what's think of their Conduct in reference to their Examination of the late unravell'd Plot.

A. My Sentiments of their Procedure induce me to believe, that their Actions were very justifiable and becoming the high Station their Merit had advanc'd them to. I know there are some particular Gentlemen who condemn their practise of Usurpation and Encroachment on the Royal Prerogative: I don't see tho' what reason there is for such unusual Imputations.

D. Not too free, I beseech you, *Jack*, I can enumerate not a few, Men of improv'd Judgments and penetrating Faculties, whose Sentiments are point blank contradictory to your own fantastick Notions.

A. I have some ground for my Opinion as well as they; there are a great many ingenious Men of my side, Persons that understand the nature of our Government, and are able to distinguish between a legal Proceeding and a Usurpation; and because you shan't think what I say to be only a little *High-Flying* Banter, I'll produce such irrefragible Reasons, that were alledg'd in defence of their—— as I believe will incline you to be of the same Mind.

D. Let's hear by all means those wonderful and oracular Discoveries. But, in the interim, let me desire you to be so concise and perspicuous as possible you can; and don't pretend to offer for undeniable Reasons, the product of a distemper'd Brain;



and for demonstrative Proof, little and sophistick Evasions.

A. I'll follow your wife and Convocational Counsel, Doctor, and will intrench upon your Patience as little as may be, upon condition you won't disturb me with too frequent interruptions.

D. The Devil take thy circumlocutory and tautological Cant for me, dost design to keep me a whole Day in expectation of, perhaps, when all comes to all, a more discomposing *Jargon* than the noise of a hooting Ass.

A. Moderation, Doctor, I'll begin immediately : Their — Proceedings were either with Her Majesty's Consent, or they were not ; if they were, I don't apprehend how they can be a usurpation, or an infringement of the Regal Rights ; if they were not, how came it to pass that She shou'd prohibit the Examination of Sir *John Macklaw*, and of no other ? had Her Majesty been unwilling that their — shou'd concern themselves in it, certainly She wou'd have forbidden the Examination of the rest as well as him. Besides, if it be an Encroachment, it must be either with Her Majesty's Knowledge or not : That a Queen so glorious, religious, and tender of Her inherent and Royal Right, shou'd knowingly suffer them to be usurp'd, is a Position so incomprehensibly wonderful, as surmounts the apprehension of the most exalted and sublime Under-



derstanding. That Her Majesty knew, that their L—— intended to examine the Prisoners, is so conspicuously true, that to go about to prove it, wou'd be more ridiculous, than to go to the Play-house to learn Morality. These are the Reasons which I heard, Doctor, and I appeal to your own Judgment for their validity.

D. Their Author seems to be a pretty ingenious Fellow, they will serve well enough for indifferent sort of People, but they can't bear the Touchstone of penetration.

A. Prejudice blinds the Eyes of the most Ingenious, and makes them run counter to the dictates of their own Reason. Impartiality and Indifferency are absolutely necessary to constitute a right Judgment; and if disinterested Persons approve of the abovesaid Reasons, I don't value the Detractions of Prepossession.

D. 'Tis a great happiness to be on the strongest side, *Jack*, and tho' we be in the right, yet for our own Interest we must sometimes commence *Trim*----

A. 'Tis beneath a Man of Honour to forsake a just and equitable Cause, out of a timorous apprehension of future Dangers: That's a Property inseparably annex'd to degenerated and emasculated Souls, and diametrically contrary to a generous and heroic Spirit.

D. Her Majesty hath built a splendid and spacious

cious P—— at St. James's, did you never hear of it, Jack.

A. Yes, I was inform'd of it t'other Day.

D. I suppose 'twill stop Dr. Collier from decrying against the Stage, and suffocate his splenatick Acrimony, when he sees so vertuous and pious a Queen to countenance it.

A. Mr. Collier doth not write against the Stage it self, but the Corruption and Licentiousness which is crept into it. Her Majesty doth not encourage the Immorality of the Stage, as Her Proclamation very apparently demonstrates, but endeavours to reduce it to its primitive Innocence.

D. I think it is erected out of the —— Lodgings : 'Tis somewhat strange to see the *quondam* Habitation of a P—— converted into a Play-house.

A. Perhaps 'twas the most convenient place for this recreating Structure, and doubtless had he continu'd in his Office another Apartment, wou'd have been assign'd unto him.

D. To Canvase at Elections certainly is not the Province of a —— they never reap any advantage by it, but generally undergo the inglorious Misfortune of a Disappointment, or the censure of preferring temporal Affairs to their spiritual Functions.

A. We can't impute the displacing of this Honourable —— to any Personal Miscarriage, because it is the usual practise of Crowned Heads, at all

op-

opportunities, to cashier the Officers of their Predecessors, and to promote others, for whom they have a greater kindness, and more particular favour.

D. I don't pretend to be so well vested in the School of Policy, as to give you a positive Reason; nevertheless I will be so bold to say, I believe the Petition of the ——— was a helping hand.

A. 'Tis plain this worthy ——— has had the misfortune to incur the displeasure of the ——— but why or wherefore I shall leave to the determination of those who are better acquainted with the Mystery. However, he is not the only Person, there are others under the same predicament; he's got the wish'd for comfort of the distressed *Socios habuisse doloris*.

D. What reason dost think the ——— was reported to give when he was ask'd, why he was against the *Occasional Bill*.

A. A very learned and substantial one I don't doubt.

D. You are so much mistaken as ever you were in your Life, Jack, 'twas only because my L—— said it must not pass.

A. O egregiously and incredibly ridiculous.

D. I had it from very good hands, Persons who are Conscientious in their Words and Actions.

A. It naturally resembles the Product of a giddy-headed Tory, and very lively represents their malicious and nefarious Designs.

D. You



D. You are very scurrilous to Night, *Jack*, 'tis not like a Gentleman, to abuse Persons after this extravagant rate, you don't know.

A. To hear Patriots so defam'd, towards whom we ought to carry our selves with the most profound Veneration, and not vindicate them from the proud and arrogant Insults of their scandalous Reproachers, is an infallible Argument of unparallel'd Cowardice, unheard of Stupidity, or an irretrievable Depravity.

D. Health and Happiness to Her Majesty, *Jack*, with all Her true, faithful, loving, and honest Subjects.

A. I humbly thank you, Doctor, because we'll be merry and facetious to Night, I'll tell you one of the most pleasant Stories you ever heard : Turning over my Great Grandfathers Study, where there were a prodigious number of old antiquated Volumes; at last I hit upon one whose Author was stil'd *Antiquissimus*, the History it self the Chronicles of the Kings of the *Antantick* Regions; he began thus : Our Land the most fruitful, delightful, and renowned throughout the Universe, is inhabited by a numerous multitude of brave, heroick, and martial Pigmies; our Ancestors had the misfortune to live in Anarchy and Confusion : But we their Posterity more sensibly perceiving what unspeakable ruine it had drawn on us, by a universal Consent have elected



lected one to be our supreme Head and Governor, whom we have authoriz'd to punish all disturbers of the publick Peace and Tranquility; and in whose hands we have entrusted the administration of all National Concerns. Since the establishment of this happy and well-constituted Government, which is above three hundred Years, we have enjoy'd, excepting in the three last Years, all temporal Blessings; in which we have felt the sad effects of Civil Dissentions and Animosities; the Cause and Spring of which Divisions, for my Reader's satisfaction, I shall briefly set down: Amongst us, the diminutive, but most wise and sagacious People in the World, it has ever been embrac'd as a most undeniable Maxim, that there are never any general Misunderstandings, National Contentions, or Popular Rebellions, but Religion has lent a helping hand to foment and propagate them; of which fundamental Truth the late Calamities of my Native Country have been a particular Verification: We all agree in paying Adoration to one Deity, *Jupiter*, the great God of Thunder and Lightning: We are all of the same Religion in Essence, and only differ in the Performance of the Ceremonial Part. Some among us account Prostration at the entrance of our Temple, and reverently to bow at the Name of *Jupiter*, to be a kind of superstitious Worship; for this Reason those who are against

D.

Ritual

Ritual Observances erected separate Meetings and Congregations. But that you may the better understand the subsequent part of my Relation, I must desire your Patience whilst I speak a few Words concerning our Government: After we had elected a King for our Ruler, he, for the more expeditious and safe management of Publick Affairs erected two supreme Courts of Legislature, one to consist of the *Optimates* of our Kingdom, the other of the most opulent and learned *Plebeians*. The last of those two grand Assemblies happening to be more penetrating and quick sighted than the other, immediately discover'd (as they thought) the inconceivable Misfortunes that wou'd befall the Nation, if these spiritual Divisions were not shortly heal'd: They had long and learned Consultations before they determin'd to proceed in this intricate Affair; but at last seven or eight of the most refin'd and speculative Politicians, laid down the following Scheme as the surest Expedient to close up these latent Breaches: That since a great many of the Separatists were possess'd of very considerable Offices and Stations in the Government, if they persisted in their Nonconformity, that Degradation shou'd be inflicted on them: That one Annual Prostration, and one Reverend Bow to the Name of *Jupiter* shou'd not qualifie them for the enjoyment of any profitable and publick Office: If they did Conform  
and

and afterwards Apostatize during their Officeship, the pecuniary Penalty of a hundred *Aureoli* shou'd be imposed on them. And for the better effecting this noble and glorious Undertaking, an humble Address shou'd be presented to His Majesty, beseeching him to discourage and punish all Abettors and Promoters of this unhappy Division, let them be distinguish'd by what Title, Dignity, Character, Complexion, or Opinion whatsoever. These Occasional Proposals, after some Obstruction, passed by a majoriry of Votes : The Optimacy refused their Concurrence, which occasion'd hot Disputes and Misunderstandings between the two National Assemblies ; Differences in a short time were so fomented, that Civil Commotions and Intestine Wars were divin'd by all to be the consequence of these domestick and fatal Divisions : His Majesty was at a loss how to appease and quell those unfortunate Dissentions ; He devis'd a thousand Expedients, but was very timorous in his Determination : At last evidently perceiving what an impendant ruine threaten'd his Dominions, if not speedily prevented by an amicable Reconciliation of Parties : By his Royal Command both Houses were sent for to appear before him, to whom, in a most moving and passionate Speech, he represented the destructive Effects of such violent Proceedings ; He plainly told them, 'twas his Will and Pleasure that diversity of  
Opi-



Opinion, in reference to Circumstance, Thou'd not unqualify any of his Subjects for the attainment of Offices; and that he wou'd not displace any one as long as he continu'd true and faithful to his Trust, for having a scrupulous Conscience. By this Kingly Resolution all Fears were dissipated, and the dread of approaching ruine quite vanish'd away. A strange alteration appear'd in the Faces of all, and Mirth and Joy, instead of Grief and Sadness, shin'd throughout the Kingdom; Tranquility succeeded publick Disturbances; Union untortunate Disagreements, and a prosperous Peace, ominous and ill-boding Commotions. This, Doctor, is an impartial recital of what I read in my old Worm eaten Author: But whether applicable and similitudinary to ——— is left to your candid Judgment to determine.

D. I'll assure thee, Jack, this is a very critical Point to discuss, it requires no small time to consider on, perhaps at our next Meeting I may give you my Opinion on the Matter.

A. This is very good Wine, Doctor, my humble Service to you, Success to Her Majesty's Forces by Sea and Land.

D. With all my Heart, Jack, I fancy 'tis somewhat late, we'll take this Glass and then adjourn.

A. Whensoever you please, I am always at your Command.

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29/3/54

F I N I S

May 10<sup>th</sup> 1754  
May 25<sup>th</sup> 1754  
May 30<sup>th</sup> 1754



